AMVETS
Veterans Helping Veterans

A Little History About AMVETS

- Eighteen Veterans, representing nine veterans clubs, met in Kansas City, Mo., and founded The American Veterans of World War II on Dec. 10, 1944. Less than three years later, on July 23, 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed Public Law 216, making AMVETS the first World War II organization to be chartered by Congress.

- This commitment to service traces its roots back to 1948, when our NSOs first began helping veterans of World War II to obtain the benefits promised them by the federal government.

What We Do For Veterans

- AMVETS (NSO), I provide veterans, service member that are retiring from the military, and service members that are separating from the military, with assistance in obtaining benefits, primarily through filing compensation claims, with the DVA.

Understanding The Department Veterans Affairs (DVA)

- The DVA administers laws, which are enacted by Congress for the benefit of veterans, and is the adjudicating agency that has the responsibility of acting on the facts laid before it.

How We Can Help You

- As your Representative, I will:
  - Help you put together all needed documents for your DVA claim.
  - Ensure you correctly complete all the required documents.

How We Can Help You

- If you need any type of help or have questions during your claims process AMVETS NSO will step in and do all we can to help you and answer your questions.
- Again, the chief aim of the AMVETS NSO is to serve and aid you and your families in obtaining rights and benefits to which you may be entitled.

How We Can Help You

- Simply put – every veteran is a potential claimant for some type of benefit. The type of benefits available make up a long list, more than I have time to mention in this briefing. This is why it is so important to have an NSO.
- The AMVETS NSO's are trained to provide assistance pertaining to veterans' benefits.
- Only with competent counseling and assistance can a veteran know whether he or she may be entitled to certain benefits.

Filing Your Claim

- When filing a claim things can get pretty tricky. Benefits are not granted automatically.
- VA will not come knocking on your door saying, “Hey! We want to give you a compensation check and medical care, and Oh yeah, dental care too!!” **It just doesn’t work that way.**
- In every instance, a claim for benefits must be filed and evidence must be furnished to prove entitlement.
- Remember that the way VA is set up, when filling for benefits, the burden of proof always falls on the veteran.

Filing Your Claim

- It is very difficult for the average veteran to effectively present and develop their own claims, **however justified the claim may be**.
- This is where the trained NSO's come in to assist you in filing your claim.

While on Active Duty

- I want to stress the importance of documenting everything that happens to you while you're on active duty.
- The best and most effective proof for your disability is documentation. It is imperative to keep track of everything. If you are injured, get it documented.
  - For example, we know that if a person has a gunshot wound you'll see a doctor, but even if you fall off of a truck and bruise your knee, you should see a doctor. After all, you don't know how the injury is going to affect you ten years from now.

Important Things To Remember

- Do not procrastinate in filing a claim. Contact your NSO and ask for help, get that claim filed right away.
- Though it is possible that your injuries may not warrant compensation when you leave active duty, you should file the claim anyway, get it on record. This way if your injury worsens five years down the road, you'll have a better chance of getting that claim approved because you filed when you left the service.

Things To Remember

- If you are injured or get sick:
  - Go to Sick Call
- If you receive medical treatment:
  - Keep Records
- When you separate or retire from Active Duty:
  - File your claim right away, do not wait.

Your Handout

- **Make two copies of your Service Medical Records.**
- **Note any pre-existing medical conditions.**
- **Go to sick call when you have a medical/mental condition.**
- **Buddy statements.**
- **Record the following:**
  - **Unit name**
  - **Location while in country**
  - **Personnel (Commander, First Sgt, PLT leader, PLT Sgt, and Squad Leader)**

Questions And Answers

Your Questions Please

My Information

AMVETS

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